

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2819

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY GABORONE IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN NEW YORK 03148

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, SF, WA

SUBJECT: NAMIBIA: THOUGHTS ON RECENT SOUTH AFRICAN
STATEMENTS

1. TAYLOR'S CONVERSATION WITH VAN HEERDEN (REFTEL),
BOTH'S RECENT SPEECH TO NATIONALIST PARTY RALLY, AND
STEYN'S INTERVIEW WITH DEVILLIERS ALL POINT TO THE
DIFFICULT TASK AHEAD IF SOUTH AFRICA IS TO COOPERATE IN
IMPLEMENTING THE NAMIBIA PROPOSAL. UNLESS THE SOUTH
AFRICANS CHANGE THEIR TUNE ON THE TIMETABLE AND VOTER
REGISTRATION, THERE IS NO POSSIBILITY THAT THE UNITED
NATIONS WOULD AGREE, NOR WOULD WE BE IN A POSITION TO
SAY THAT THE PROPOSED PROCESS EVEN APPROACHED FREE AND
FAIR ELECTIONS. THE SOUTH AFRICANS MUST SURELY BE AWARE
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OF THIS FACT YET THEY SEEM TO BE IRRATIONALLY WALKING
OUT ON LIMB, MUCH AS THEY DID ON WALVIS BAY.

2. THERE IS, OF COURSE, THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE SOUTH
AFRICANS HAVE NO INTENTION OF AGREEING TO IMPLEMENTA-
TION OF THE PROPOSAL AND PLAN TO CITE THE REGISTRATION,
INDEPENDENCE DATE, SIZE AND COMPOSITION OF U.N. FORCES,

THE ALLEGED DOUBLE-CROSS ON WALVIS BAY AS THEIR RATIONALIZATION. THEY COULD CITE INCREASED SWAPO VIOLENCE PRIOR TO THE CEASEFIRE AND SWAPO POSTURING (WHILE, OF COURSE, IGNORING THEIR OWN). SO FAR WE HAVE REFRAINED FROM PUBLIC OR PRIVATE REFUTATION OF SELF-SERVING AND INFLAMMATORY SOUTH AFRICAN STATEMENTS. HOWEVER, THESE HAVE BEEN REPEATED FREQUENTLY ENOUGH THAT THEY APPROACH THE STATURE OF THE BIG LIE. FOR THE RECORD IN THE EVEN THE SOUTH AFRICANS RENEGE ON THE PROPOSAL AND PERHAPS AS A WAY OF HELPING TO HEAD OFF SUCH A DECISION, WE SHOULD CONSIDER HOW BEST TO ADDRESS THE SPECIFIC ISSUES ON WHICH THEY SEEM TO PEG THEIR CASE. WE PLAN TO RAISE THESE QUESTIONS WITH THE CONTACT GROUP AND WOULD APPRECIATE SUGGESTIONS FROM THE DEPARTMENT AND EMBASSY PRETORIA.

3. SWAPO HARDLINERS MAY BE SEEKING TO LURE SOUTH AFRICA INTO A RAID IN ORDER TO PLACE BLAME FOR BREAKDOWN ON SOUTH AFRICA. EQUALLY, SWAPO MAY BE FLEXING ITS MUSCLES IN ORDER TO DEMONSTRATE THE DANGERS OF A BREAKDOWN. WHATEVER THE CASE, WE SHOULD CONSIDER SOME APPROACH TO SWAPO, THE FRONTLINE, PARTICULARLY ANGOLA, AND PERHAPS TO WALDHEIM ON POSSIBLE SWAPO MILITARY ACTIVITY. AHTISAARI TOOK UP THIS QUESTION WITH NUJOMA PRIOR TO THE DEPARTURE OF THE SURVEY MISSION. DEPENDING UPON HIS ASSESSMENT OF SAG WILLINGNESS TO IMPLEMENT THE CONFIDENTIAL

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PROPOSAL, AHTISAARI MAY BE WILLING TO MAKE PRIVATE AND/OR PUBLIC STATEMENTS EMPHASIZING THE NEED FOR PEACE EVEN PRIOR TO CEASEFIRE.

4. WE SHOULD NOT DIGNIFY STORY ON PAYMENTS TO SWAPO BY TAKING UP VAN HEERDEN SUGGESTION THAT HIGHER LEVEL U.S. OFFICIAL TELEPHONE "CLARIFICATION" TO SAG. RATHER WE SHOULD SIMPLY TELL VAN HEERDEN THAT WE CANNOT CONDUCT POLICY ON BASIS OF SOUTH AFRICAN RUMOR-MILL INFLAMED BY SAG ITSELF. IF THEY WISH TO ELEVATE RUMORS TO FORMAL INQUIRIES THEY ARE, OF COURSE, FREE TO DO SO.
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